

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: INT/DEPT/DOA/JBERG

APPROVED BY: EMMETT M. RICEACTING DIRECTOR TA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019060

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, TQ

SUBJECT: PUBLIC LAND EXECUTIVE ORDER

DOA NO. 041-TT

IN ADDITION TO ISSUANCE OF PRESS RELEASE REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS SECRETARIAL ORDER, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR YOU TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH THE SPEAKER OF EACH DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AS REGARDS THE PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEXT STEPS TO BE TAKEN AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL IN ORDER THAT PUBLIC LANDS MIGHT BE TRANSFERRED EXPEDITIOUSLY. ACCORDINGLY, PLEASE USE FOLLOWING TEXT IN LETTERS FROM YOU TO EACH SPEAKER TO BE SENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR MR. SPEAKER. AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ROGERS C.B. MORTON ISSUED SECRETARIAL ORDER NO. 2969 ON DECEMBER 26, 1974, WHICH ALLOWS FOR THE TRANSFER OF APPLICABLE PUBLIC LANDS IN YOUR DISTRICT TO LOCAL OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL. THE SECRETARY ISSUED THIS ORDER TO IMPLEMENT HIS PUBLIC LANDS POLICY STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 1973 AND SO THAT THE LONG REPEATED WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF YOUR DISTRICT AND ALL OF MICRONESIA FOR THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS COULD BE FULFILLED. THE TEXT OF THE SECRETARIAL ORDER IS ENCLOSED.

AT CONSULTATION MEETINGS HELD IN HONOLULU IN DECEMBER OF 1974, THE DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS INFORMED THE LEADERS OF ALL  
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THE DISTRICTS THAT, REGARDLESS OF THE METHOD CHOSEN TO

IMPLEMENT THE SECRETARY'S POLICY STATEMENT, THE DECISIONS AS TO WHETHER AND WHEN A DISTRICT WILL RECEIVE TITLE TO ITS PUBLIC LANDS ARE THE DOMAIN OF EACH DISTRICT LEGISLATURE. I AM WRITING NOW TO INFORM YOU THAT, SHOULD THE PEOPLE OF YOUR DISTRICT DESIRE AN EXPEDITIOUS RETURN OF TITLE TO PUBLIC LANDS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE TO FORMALLY REQUEST THE TRANSFER OF THOSE PUBLIC LANDS AND TO CREATE A LAND RECEIVING ENTITY OF SUFFICIENT LEGAL QUALITY IN ITS NEXT SESSION. SO, THAT THESE ACTIONS MIGHT BE TAKEN ALONG THE LINES SPECIFIED IN THE SECRETARIAL ORDER, I HAVE INSTRUCTED THE CHIEF, HEADQUARTERS DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS AND HIS STAFF TO RENDER ANY ASSISTANCE WHICH MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO ANY DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, ITS LEGAL COUNSEL OR TO ANY OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYS. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL UPON THE RESOURCES OF HEADQUARTERS SHOULD YOUR DISTRICT LEGISLATURE DECIDE TO REQUEST THE TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS IN ITS UPCOMING SESSION.

FINALLY, THE TEXT OF THE SECRETARIAL ORDER ALLOWING THE TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS HAS NOW BEEN TRANSLATED INTO THE MAJOR LANGUAGES OF MICRONESIA. THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD DEEPLY APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE YOU AND THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE CAN PROVIDE TO ASSURE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE DISSEMINATION OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT DOCUMENT. SIGNED HICOM. END OF TEXT.

ALSO BELIEVE IT ADVISEABLE FOR A MEMBER OF HQ LANDS AND SURVEYS STAFF TO TAKE ON AS PRIORITY ASSIGNMENT DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR DISTRICT LEGISLATURES' ACTION ON PUBLIC LANDS MATTER AND POSSIBLY TO TRAVEL TO EACH DISTRICT IF REQUESTED TO DISCUSS NECESSARY LEGISLATION AND PROCEDURES. ACTING DOTA RICE SENDS.

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PGOV, PBOR, TQ  
**To:** HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN  
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